

MAYOR OF LONDON

Susan Hall

Chairman of the London Assembly Fire, Resilience
and Emergency Planning Committee
C/o Diane.Richards@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA191121-8253

Date: 21 December 2021

Dear Susan,

Re: London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee: actions following meeting on 22 September 2021

Thank you for your letter of 18 November and your continued commitment to supporting Londoners affected by the building safety crisis. Please see below my responses to the three areas you highlight in your letter.

Progress of remediation and simultaneous evacuation

Thank you for your suggestion that I should write to building owners/managers that have been slow to remediate. As you know, in September 2020, I wrote to 42 building owners who had failed to begin remediation of unsafe ACM cladding in a total of 61 buildings and demanded that they accelerate their plans. As of September 2021, this number had been reduced to 17 buildings, reflecting the impact of the intervention. On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, also wrote to five housing associations receiving funds through the Social Sector Cladding Remediation Fund, but whose remediation works were too slow.

My team keeps under constant review the Private Sector Cladding Remediation Fund portfolio to identify buildings that require further intervention to increase the pace of delivery, whether that be in the form of more intensive engagement by the allocated Greater London Authority case officer or remediation advisor, or through targeted engagement by me or the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

I have made clear my commitment to intervene directly where building works are not proceeding at an appropriate pace, and my team is reviewing where this may encourage further progress.

I share your concerns regarding buildings with simultaneous evacuation orders. Thank you for your ongoing work to advocate for leaseholders affected by dangerous cladding, and for writing to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities urging them to expand the Waking Watch Relief Fund to medium-rise buildings. Access to the fund will offer some financial and emotional relief to those who live in buildings where 'stay put' is no longer considered appropriate.

MAYOR OF LONDON

EWS1 Task and Finish Working Group

The objective of the EWS1 Task and Finish Working Group was to identify best practices and develop an approach that could be adopted by landlords across London to improve leaseholders' experiences when requesting EWS1 assessments.

The working group concluded its core meetings in September 2021. Officers held five meetings with representatives from housing associations, London boroughs and leaseholder and building safety action groups. Officers also engaged with UK Finance, the Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors, the Building Societies Association, and the Association of British Insurers, as well as private landlords and managing agents.

The result of this work is a draft best practice guidance that I intend to publish early in the new year. The guidance will seek to reflect any changes brought about by PAS 9980, which I continue to call on the Government to publish urgently.

Thank you again for your continued work in supporting a resolution to the building safety crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small number '2' written below the name.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London